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## NIU shooting prompts universities to re-examine campus safety

Posted: Feb 15, 2008 06:30 PM EST

INDIANAPOLIS (WISH) - With each recent campus shooting, a sub-committee of Indiana's Department of Homeland Security has met to review and learn from it in order to help college campuses statewide.

Thomas Christenberry is Director of Public Safety Education at the University of Indianapolis. The former FBI agent also serves on Indiana's Homeland Security Higher Education Campus Safety Subcommittee.

"We had a meeting the day after the Virginia Tech shooting. We talked about police response, what the university did," said Christenberry.

Next Tuesday the committee will discuss the massacre at Northern Illinois University.

Christenberry says every Indiana campus has been encouraged to invest in an emergency notification system including cell phones, text messaging and e-mail.

NIU officials say their system notified students of the rampage within 20 minutes.

UINDY tested its system earlier this week.

"I know they sent it out at 1:59 (p.m.) and my cell phone hit right at 1:59 (p.m.) so that was good.

But only about half of UINDY students have signed up for the service.

"Why wouldn't you want to know if something's going on in your school so you know, you can get out," said student Emily Potter.

Some students wonder if colleges will be forced to fence themselves in.

UIndy is surrounded by several busy streets including State Avenue, Hanna Avenue and Shelby Street. Christenberry says they don't want a complete lockdown so the goal is to isolate the area where the event takes place.

Christenberry expects the state safety committee to focus on how colleges can teach students ways of reacting to a shooting without scaring them in the process.

By [Leslie Olsen](#)  
WISH-TV

[\*\*Return to Indianapolis\*\*](#)

# Chronicle-Tribune

## Emergency Medical Technician course at Ivy Tech Community College

Ivy Tech Community College's Marion campus will offer its first Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course beginning March 17.

The Basic EMT-B course will run March 17 through June 28 meeting from 5 to 9 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays and some Saturdays at the new campus, 261 S. Commerce Drive.

With increased demand for EMTs in the Emergency Medical Services, this course is considered to be a good first step for individuals interested in pursuing a career in the emergency services field.

Curriculum includes 140 hours of lecture and lab, 40 hours of ambulance practicum experience and 24 hours of emergency room clinical experience, and the state practical exam. Upon successful completion of the course, students will earn 7.5 hours of college credit and be eligible to take the Indiana Department of Homeland Security EMS written and practical exams.

Course packets are available at the Marion campus. Course fees are \$800.54 plus the cost of the books, a skills DVD, the state practical exam and the state written exam. Partial funding may be available through the local Work One office.

For additional information, contact Jennifer Buchanan or Jasmine Hamilton, 1-800-280-7157, ext. 2221.  
**Originally published February 15, 2008**

[Return to Marion](#)

# Dyer seeks volunteers for daytime fire calls

BY VANESSA RENDERMAN

[vrederman@nwitimes.com](mailto:vrederman@nwitimes.com)

219.933.3241 | Sunday, February 17, 2008 | 3 comment(s)

DYER | The Dyer Fire Department is looking for some new firefighters to help respond to daytime calls.

The volunteer department is feeling the same pinch as other departments across the country, a shortage of available people who are free to respond to 911 calls during the 9-to-5 hours.

"It's not just here," Fire Chief Thad Stutler said. "It's everywhere."

Dyer averages between 80 and 90 calls a month. The town has about 30 firefighters. Between three or four are usually available to respond to daytime calls, Stutler said.

He said he doesn't want to scare the community, because if the department needs help, it calls for it. And about 85 percent of the calls are medical runs.

A daytime drought of volunteer firefighters is an issue in Highland, where the town has trained a handful of public works employees to help cover daytime emergency calls as needed, Fire Chief Bill Timmer said.

The issue falls back to standards of coverage, which means that, for a working structure fire, a department needs to have 15 firefighters on the scene within eight minutes to adequately fight the fire, Timmer said.

Sometimes it happens, sometimes it doesn't, he said.

Timmer said if he doesn't hear enough firefighters are on the way to the fire, he'll call on Munster, Dyer or another nearby departments for help.

"To recruit and retain volunteer firefighters is a huge problem nationwide," Timmer said.

Jobs, attachments and commitments get in the way.

"There's a hundred other demands on your time," Timmer said.

If a person has a choice between working overtime or sitting at home because there might be an emergency call, he's going to choose the overtime work, Stutler said.

In Indiana, a person needs a minimum of 100 hours of training before even riding on a truck to go to a call, Stutler said.

It can take a few months to accrue those training hours, he said.

"You're asking someone to do a lot of training before they can participate," he said.

The training, which covers the basics of hoses and streams, handling hazardous materials and putting on gear properly, is essential. It's just time-consuming, Stutler said.

Twenty years ago, the required training was 24 hours. That changed as the role of firefighters evolved. Firefighters do more than douse flames.

"I'd like to sand the word fire off (the trucks) and call it emergency services," Timmer said.

Firefighters sometimes deal with homeland security issues, structure collapses and even crowd control, he said.

Timmer said he thinks the trend in fire department staffing will shift toward a mix of full-time or part-time firefighters supported by paid-on-call volunteers, as in Illinois.

#### HOW TO APPLY

Anyone interested in joining the Dyer Fire Department can pick up an application between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Friday at the fire station, 2150 Hart St. Candidates must be at least 19 years old and Dyer residents. The department will train, and volunteers are paid per call. For more information, call the department at (219) 865-4226.

[\*Return to Gary\*](#)



Published: February 16, 2008 10:25 pm

## Vigo official picked as Fire Department assistant chief of operations

Darrick Scott has been volunteer firefighter for 20 years

**By Crystal Garcia**  
The Tribune-Star

TERRE HAUTE — Darrick Scott wants members of the Terre Haute Fire Department to know he's there to serve them and not the other way around.

Chief Jeff Fisher named Scott the assistant chief of operations Friday.

"He's definitely got the experience," Fisher said of his appointment. "... He did come highly qualified."

Scott, 39, has been a volunteer fireman with the Sugar Creek Fire Department for 20 years, 10 as deputy chief. He's been with the Terre Haute Fire Department for 17 years and holds several certifications with the department and the state.

Prior to graduating from Indiana State University with an aerospace administration degree, he spent eight years as an active reservist in the U.S. Navy. Scott is also serving in his second term as a Vigo County councilman.

"I'm excited to serve the men and women of the department and the citizens of Terre Haute," Scott said about the promotion.

Some changes Scott hopes to make while in this position are adding more training for firefighters and opening the lines of communication between himself and personnel, he said.

"My job is to make sure they have the tools and the training necessary to do their jobs to the best of their abilities," Scott said.

Scott traveled to almost every firehouse Saturday to explain some of his plans and hear what some of the firefighters needs and concerns.

"They just really want ... to get a little more training in the department," he said. "They definitely want to see more of the front office personnel, myself included, the deputy chief, to show that we're there for them and make some runs in the night when it's cold and snowing out and 2 below zero, that I'm there with them."

From his days with the Navy, Scott said he has carried one analogy with him from a chief petty officer who told him to base his decisions on the majority and not the minority. He said that's something he plans to apply to his new position.



Despite the promotion, Scott said he plans to continue in his role as a deputy chief with the Sugar Creek Fire Department. He said he would also like to expand on that by developing a better working relationship with the Terre Haute Fire Department and volunteer fire departments around the county.

"We're all doing the same job, so I plan on working with them quite often to find out what equipment they have and get some mutual aid response guidelines set up," Scott said. "I thoroughly enjoy [working as a volunteer firefighter], it gives you another aspect of the job and I believe networking throughout the county and throughout the state is the key to putting Terre Haute Fire in the right direction."

*Crystal Garcia can be reached at (812) 231-4271 or [crystal.garcia@tribstar.com](mailto:crystal.garcia@tribstar.com).*

**[Return to Terre Haute](#)**

Kankakee Valley

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# Post-News

## **Mobil DRCs moving to area**

**Posted:** Friday, February 15, 2008 3:29 PM CST

LAFAYETTE, Ind. -- FEMA Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers (MDRCs) will open in Pulaski and Tippecanoe counties Sunday, Feb. 17 through Wednesday, Feb. 20 only at the following locations:

Pulaski County  
Church of the Heartland  
890 E. Hwy 14  
Winamac, IN 47978

Tippecanoe County  
Indiana State Police  
5921 SR 43 N.  
Lafayette, IN 47906  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MDRC staff can answer questions about registration for disaster assistance and hazard mitigation, help with disaster loan applications and provide information and contacts for other programs.

Homeowners, renters and business owners affected by the recent severe storms and flooding are encouraged to register for assistance by calling the telephone registration line, 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) which is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) seven days a week. Residents are encouraged to register prior to visiting a DRC.

For speech- or hearing-impaired applicants, the TTY number is 1-800-462-7585. Applicants also may register on-line at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

Small Business Administration (SBA) representatives will be present at all DRCs to provide assistance in completing disaster loan applications for homeowners, renters and businesses of any size, and to accept completed disaster loan applications. Returning the applications is an essential part of the disaster recovery process even for individuals who do not want a loan.

In addition to the MDRCs, Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) are located at:

Carroll County

Delphi School Corporation  
Middle School Gym  
210 High Street  
Delphi, IN 46923

Jasper County  
The Roy Fern Tobias Center Library  
105 N. Ohio St.  
Remington, IN 47977

White County  
White County EMA Office  
315 North Illinois Street  
Monticello, IN 47960

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# FEMA Inspectors Visit Allen County to Document Flood Damage

Story Published: Feb 15, 2008 at 6:59 PM EST

Story Updated: Feb 15, 2008 at 6:59 PM EST

**By Jeff Neumeyer**

Representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency spent the day in Allen County, looking over some of the areas hardest hit in this most recent flood event.

The flooding has subsided, but the damage that was done last week and over last week-end by high water has now been viewed by FEMA reps first hand.

The small town of Aboite between Fort Wayne and Roanoke was inundated by water during the height of the flood.

FEMA inspectors spoke with property owners who suffered damage there.

Those same investigators toured numerous areas, including the west side of Fort Wayne, where homes and businesses near the Junk Ditch got wet.

The hope is, the damage documented in their short trip to Fort Wayne will qualify flood victims for some form of federal aid.

Bernie Beier/Ft. Wayne-Allen County Homeland Security: " And the more serious the damage is, the more likelihood that assistance will be made available. Say for example, a home was only effected with water in the yard, water to the front porch, that's far less damage than an entire basement flooded, or a basement wall collapsed, or a total loss."

The FEMA crews also inspected the Belle Vista Neighborhood in Waynedale, where the Fairfield Ditch caused problems during the flood as well.

Only privately owned homes and businesses were analyzed during this trip.

FEMA may come back in a few weeks to see if local government is eligible for any aid.

It is hoped in a matter of days, we will know if Indiana in general qualifies for a disaster declaration.

If so, expect victims here might be able to get their hands on some grant money, or access to low interest loans to fix what the flood ruined.

[\*Return to Fort Wayne\*](#)

# The Garrett Clipper

Flooding ruins Garrett homes  
Holiday Lakes properties are in floodway

(Created: Monday, February 18, 2008 8:01 AM EST)

GARRETT — Two homes damaged in Feb. 6 flooding at Holiday Lakes probably cannot be repaired under terms of a county ordinance, according to county zoning administrator Clint Knauer.

Homes at 26 Cottonwood Drive and 48 Cottonwood Drive are considered to be substantially damaged, because they have more than 50 percent damage, he said.

Both homes are in a floodway, and DeKalb County's floodplain management ordinance says the Indiana Department of Natural Resources would have to approve any rebuilding efforts. Knauer said that appears to be unlikely.

A homeowner might be able to jack up a house on cinderblocks or stilts to have the DNR approve the plan, or have the estimated repair cost be less than half of the assessed value, but Knauer said those would be rare occurrences.

Knauer said the reason he can't allow people to rebuild is due to buyouts and insurance. He's simply following the ordinance, he said.

"When something floods, we don't want to put it back, because we don't want it to flood again," he said.

Two other homes at Holiday Lakes also sustained damage in the flood — at 46 Cottonwood Drive and 43 Cottonwood Drive. However, because they sustained only minor damage, those homeowners will be able to rebuild, Knauer said. Those two homes merely had water in their crawl spaces, while the substantially damaged homes had water in living areas.

"I've never been through something like that," Knauer said. "I didn't ever think I'd be strapping my boots on and doing four to five hours of inspections inside homes."

The Holiday Lakes Association is asking for donations for the families whose homes suffered the most damage in the flood. Checks may be mailed to Holiday Lakes Association, 58 Skyline Drive, Garrett, IN 46738, with "Flood Victims" referenced in the memo line.

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# Residents along Kankakee brace for river's crest

BY DAN HINKEL

[dhinkel@nwi.com](mailto:dhinkel@nwi.com)

219.933.4183 | Monday, February 18, 2008 | [No comments posted.](#)

If the Kankakee River rises this week to the near-historic levels predicted by the National Weather Service, the river's levees probably won't hold, river watcher Jody Melton said.

The National Weather Service predicted Sunday night the Kankakee will hit 12.7 feet at Shelby on Tuesday. That is above "major flood stage" and just inches shy of the river's record crest of 12.98 feet in March 1982. The river peaked at 12.32 feet during disastrous flooding in January 2005.

"It would be very difficult for us to get to 12.7 at Shelby without us breaking levees upstream," said Melton, director of the Kankakee River Basin Commission.

"That's really, really high."

Sunday's rainfall added to the already swollen river. Less than an inch fell across most of the Chicago area and Northwest Indiana, said Casey Sullivan, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service's Romeoville, Ill., station. Temperatures dipped below zero Sunday night, and Sullivan predicted snow today.

Dan Gardner, executive director of the Little Calumet River Basin Commission, said Sunday night he had not heard of problems along the river.

A levee broke last week along the Kankakee near Ind. 49 at Porter County's border with LaPorte County, relieving pressure on the river at Shelby and Sumava Resorts.

Melton said extra sandbags will be needed if the river hits the predicted levels. The levees would be "severely pressed," he said,

## RAINFALL TOTALS

The following shows the 24-hour rainfall totals between 6 p.m. Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday, according to the National Weather Service:

Midway Airport: 0.77 inches

Valparaiso: 0.36 inches

O'Hare International Airport: 1.11 inches

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11:34 AM February 15, 2008

## Flood waters receding on Lake Shafer

**Associated Press**

February 15, 2008

MONTICELLO, Ind. -- Water levels are dropping on Lake Shafer, where an ice jam caused flooding earlier in the week, emergency officials said.

The water level dropped about 2 feet between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening, said White County Emergency Management Agency director Gordon Cochran.

"The ice is still there, but it seems like the water is moving a little bit better," he said.

A message left with Cochran this morning wasn't immediately returned.

The Norway Dam experienced an unexpected spike in water flow Thursday afternoon, Cochran said. By that night, there were noticeable gaps on the surface of the ice jam.

Jim Fitzer, a spokesman for Northern Indiana Public Service Co., the power company that operates the dams, said the Norway Dam shouldn't have any problem handling the ice or the water behind it as the jam breaks up.

Tim Dwyer, a suburban Chicago resident, said the pier at his summer lake home was damaged.

"The ice has lifted up everybody's piers," he said.

The 2 1/2-mile ice jam caused boats to be jolted from docks and boat houses to be flooded.

Gov. Mitch Daniels authorized the Army National Guard earlier this week to help build protective sand walls and take other safety measures to protect 100 to 200 homes and roads in the area about 20 miles north of Lafayette.

[\*Return to Indianapolis\*](#)



# New flood worries set in even as Lake Shafer ice jam holds steady

## STAFF REPORTS

MONTICELLO - The National Weather Service is forecasting possible heavy rain for Sunday. More flooding could happen for this beleaguered area along the Tippecanoe River.

With an ice jam on Lake Shafer, Gordon Cochran is concerned about flooding. He is the director of the White County Emergency Management Agency.

He said a thunderstorm Sunday would probably cause more flooding.

"That's our biggest fear now," he said. "Anything we get will just run off.

"If it warms up to 40 degrees and we get rain, the ice will melt and join the rain. Plus, the tributaries will be involved. We will be right back where we were."

As of 9 p.m. Thursday, there has been no change in the ice jam on Lake Shafer, Cochran said.

The water level dropped 2 feet Thursday and is holding steady, he said.

Here is the National Weather Service forecast this weekend for the Monticello area:

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 33. Calm wind becoming south between 5 and 10 mph.

Saturday night: A chance of freezing rain, mainly after 2 a.m. Increasing clouds, with a low around 26. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Sunday: Periods of rain. The rain could be heavy at times. High near 43. South wind between 10 and 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent.

Sunday night: Periods of snow. Low around 19. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

Monday: A 30 percent chance of snow showers. Cloudy and cold, with a high near 19.

Monday night: Cloudy, with a low around 8.

Read more in Saturday's Journal & Courier.

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# Lake levels drop; more rain is coming

By JOE LARSON

[jlarrison@journalandcourier.com](mailto:jlarrison@journalandcourier.com)

MONTICELLO -- Lake Shafer is back within its banks, but heavy rain expected this weekend could cause more headaches for residents here.

"If we get over an inch of rain again, we're going to have problems," said Gordon Cochran, director of White County's emergency management agency.

The ice jam is still covering part of Lake Shafer, but the water level has dropped about 21/2 feet between Wednesday evening and Friday night, according to Cochran.

But the area may not stay dry for long, said Sally Pavlow of the National Weather Service. Greater Lafayette is expected to get an inch of rain Saturday night through Sunday and about a half an inch of snow Sunday night.

Tippecanoe, Fountain and Warren counties as well as most of the northern half of the state will be under a flood watch from 11 p.m. Saturday through 7 p.m. Sunday, according to Pavlow.

"I'm so tired of rain," Cochran said. "I'd take six inches of snow over an inch of rain."

The downpour expected this weekend will likely be caused by a warm front joining a cold front that entered Greater Lafayette earlier this week, Pavlow said.

Saturday will be mostly sunny with a high near 33 degrees, Pavlow said. That night, the area will be hit by a mix of rain and freezing rain.

The chance of rain after midnight is 80 percent.

Temperatures Sunday could reach the 50s, but it will rain "pretty much all day long," Pavlow said.

That rain will change to snow by Sunday night. About half an inch of accumulation is expected.

Temperatures will drop to the mid-20s by Sunday night and will stay there Monday. There's a chance of snow showers, but no accumulation is expected.

The precipitation may cause problems on Lake Shafer, but the ensuing cold temperatures could help halt flooding in other parts of Greater Lafayette.

"If any flooding develops and we stay well below freezing for a day or two after that, that will (stop) any flooding that has been going on around it," Pavlow said.

-- Contributing: Bob Scott/[bscott@journalandcourier.com](mailto:bscott@journalandcourier.com)

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# Odd weather: Reality or myth?

**Disasters prompt concerns, but experts say worry not**

By CURT SLYDER  
[cslyder@journalandcourier.com](mailto:cslyder@journalandcourier.com)  
and DAVID SMITH  
[dsmith@journalandcourier.com](mailto:dsmith@journalandcourier.com)

Dennis Kellar of Carroll County moved back into his home along the Tippecanoe River this week after a very expensive winter.

January flooding, followed by more flooding this month, cost him about \$25,000 in repairs.

"That's just the house," he said. "I've still got to do the garage."

He wasn't alone.

Because of high water, President Bush declared nine Indiana counties disaster areas. So far nearly 1,000 residents in nine counties, including Carroll, White and Tippecanoe, have applied for federal assistance.

Back-to-back floods, record-breaking heat, killer tornadoes -- these extremes and others are causing many people to wonder if the weird weather phenomena are related -- perhaps the result of global warming.

Kellar goes even farther, speculating that extreme weather may have something to do with the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake that caused tsunamis, or tidal waves, that killed hundreds of thousands of people.

"Everything's been happening since that big tsunami," Kellar said. "Something is wrong. This is crazy."

Devdutta "Dev" Niyogi, Indiana state climatologist at Purdue University, tries to dispel such clouds of speculation with cold, hard facts. He said that while climate is undergoing long-term changes, other factors are likely causing the Midwest's weird weather.

The most likely culprit, he said, is La Niña -- a cooling of the Pacific Ocean that causes a shift in weather over North America every four to six years.

Higher than normal precipitation and temperature extremes "are the swings we expect with a La Niña type pattern," Niyogi said.

"And we're not out of the woods yet," he said. Niyogi said La Niña could bring additional high precipitation this winter, followed by potentially more violent thunderstorms in spring and summer.

"I'm not a climate change skeptic," he said. "I agree there is some degree of climate change occurring. We need to make cause and effect more clear."

**Reality vs. perception**

Niyogi said there is evidence that Indiana's growing season has lengthened in the past century. But that subtle shift, very real to farmers, doesn't get the same media attention as floods, tornadoes and other extremes.

"In a sense, we do see general increases in climate extremes. However, we also have a short-term memory. When we see something happen, we think it is the worse that's ever been."

Dave McDowell, director of the Carroll County Emergency Management Department, tends to agree.

"When I was in school, there was the Blizzard of '78," McDowell said. "All the headlines back then read 'Ice Age imminent.'"

"There seems to be a shift in the weather every 20 years or so."

McDowell also believes people are making a bigger issue of extreme weather because communities are expanding into formerly undeveloped areas.

"As humanity expands, there are more things to damage," he said.

McDowell believes weather extremes are something that must be anticipated, whatever their cause. This is especially true in flood-prone areas.

### **Where was the warning?**

When Kellar and others along the Tippecanoe River were flooded out Jan. 8, the high water came quickly. The flood occurred after warm temperatures the previous day melted snow and overnight thunderstorms dumped several inches of rain.

Oakdale Dam, a hydroelectric dam not designed for flood control, let the torrent pass through to the Tippecanoe River.

Downstream residents such as Kellar were caught by surprise, in part because the dam's owner, Northern Indiana Public Service Co., failed to trigger a phone alert system designed to warn residents of dangerously high flows.

"Many residents awoke to the sound of water rushing through their homes, after an early-warning system failed," noted Indiana's Jan. 28 application for federal relief, sent by Gov. Mitch Daniels to the White House.

Jim Fitzer, a public affairs manager for NIPSCO, said the dam operator on duty notified emergency and company personnel of the high flows but did not realize residents were not notified warned until the next day.

Fitzer said operating procedures have since been clarified, and the warning system worked properly when flooding returned on Feb. 5.

McDowell is pushing for a three-tiered warning system that would place warning sirens along the river and weather radios in every home along with the telephone warning system.

The cost of sirens could be substantial, potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars. "Right now, I'm trying to figure out how to pay for it," McDowell said.

With adequate warning, residents in the flood-prone areas could move themselves as well as furnishings, clothing and prized possessions out of harm's way.

Kellar agreed that a better warning system is needed.

"We need an early warning system from Buffalo, all the way down the Tippecanoe River," he said.

So far, the damage toll has run into the millions, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In the nine-county disaster declaration area, FEMA has processed 968 applications for disaster assistance from individuals and businesses.

The applications represent \$3.1 million in assistance approved so far, an amount that could grow significantly in coming weeks, Sam Ventura, FEMA public information officer, predicted.

Those kinds of numbers tell McDowell that a warning system would be a worthwhile investment. He would like to see FEMA help pay for it, but he has been told such a request may have to go through Indiana's Homeland Security Department.

"If we get the money, I don't see why such a system couldn't be up this summer," McDowell said.

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### **A brief history of Wabash flooding**

A Journal & Courier analysis of Wabash River peak levels for the past 108 years suggests that significant flooding -- defined as a river level of 20 feet or more measured at Brown Street -- is no more common now than it was 50 to 100 years ago.

Between 1901 and 1954 there were 30 floods in excess of 20 feet, the same number as from 1954 to present.

And multiple significant floods in one year are not that uncommon either.

The year 1927 saw three separate floods in excess of 20 feet, and during the 11 months between June 1958 and May 1959, three floods ranging in size from 22.4 feet to 26.4 feet occurred in Lafayette.

The February 1959 flood, which prompted a national disaster declaration by President Eisenhower, was accompanied by an ice jam so big it threatened the bridges at Main and Brown streets.

The Army Corps of Engineers drew up plans to break up the ice with dynamite, then raised the possibility of bombing it, according to Journal & Courier articles.

While the discussion about what to do with the ice dragged on, the ice jam broke up on its own without serious consequence.

-- David Smith/[dsmith@journalandcourier.com](mailto:dsmith@journalandcourier.com)

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## **Forecast: Minor flooding, strong winds likely today**

### **STAFF REPORTS**

A weather system has dumped nearly an inch of rain on the Greater Lafayette area causing some minor flooding and making some roads impassable, according to the National Weather Service.

The NWS has issued a flood watch effective through tonight for Carroll, Fountain, Tippecanoe, Vermillion and Warren Counties.

"Rainfall may cause renewed flooding along area rivers and streams as well as flooding of low lying areas," according to the warning statement.

Strong winds will move through the area today with gusts reaching up to 40 miles per hour, according to the NWS.

High temperatures for today should reach about 50 with a chance of snow tonight. Less than an inch of accumulation is expected.

Temperatures will drop significantly on Monday with the high reaching 24 and an overnight low of 7.

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## **FEMA Mobile Center Moving to Tippecanoe, Pulaski Counties**

Updated: Feb 15, 2008 03:27 PM EST

Federal Emergency Management Agency Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers will open in Tippecanoe and Pulaski Counties on Sunday, February 17. The centers will be open through Wednesday, February 20.

The Pulaski County center will be located at Church of the Heartland, 890 E. State Road 14 in Winamac.

The Tippecanoe County center will be at the Indiana State Police Post at 5921 State Road 43 North.

Hours for mobile Disaster Recovery Centers will be 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Disaster Recovery Center staffers can answer questions about registration for disaster assistance and hazard mitigation, help with disaster loan applications, and provide information and contacts for other programs.

Homeowners, renters, and business owners affected by the recent storms and flooding are encouraged to register for assistance by calling the FEMA registration line 1-800-621-3362. For speech or hearing-impaired applicants, the TTY number is 1-800-462-7585. Applicants can also register on-line at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)

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## **FEMA Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers**

Updated: Feb 17, 2008 12:06 AM EST

FEMA urges homeowners, renters and business owners affected by the recent sever storms and flooding to register for assistance. Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers will be open from Sunday until Wednesday in two areas. The Tippecanoe County center will be at the Indiana State Police headquarters, located at 5921 State Road 43 north in Lafayette. The Pulaski County center will be at Church of the Heartland, located at 890 East Highway 14 in Winamac.

[\*Return to Lafayette\*](#)

# Herald Journal

## Ice jam breaks

**Doug Howard**  
Reporter

An ice jam on Lake Shafer that backed up water in several tributaries began got not just one but several breaks on Friday, just enough for water levels to drop to deal with yet another round of wet weather expected to begin on Sunday.

"Every little bit helps," said White Count Emergency Management Director Gordon Cochran on Friday. "The ground is just so frozen that we get anything and it's just going to run off and go right back in there."

Almost as quickly as they had risen, water levels behind an ice jam that had formed along about 2 1/2 miles of Lake Shafer from Big Monon Bay to Hoagland Bay on Lake Shafer began to drop.

On Wednesday, the threat of flooding led Gov. Mitch Daniels to mobilize the Army National Guard to help stack sand bags near homes in the area.

Using the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District treatment plant near Lowes Bridge as a staging area, from approximately 4 p.m. that afternoon till 5:30 the following morning, the effort filled about 9,500 sand bags. Of those, approximately 3,500 were used to barricade homes along the backed up waterways.

Cochran said emergency personnel began going door to door in low lying areas not already swamped along East and West Shafer Drive, Big Monon Bay, and Bedford Bay to notify residents of the sand bagging efforts. He estimated that over half of the homes were seasonally occupied.

"We put sand bags around the houses whether they were or whether they weren't (seasonal) - the ones that were in immediate danger at the time," he said.

Cochran said that the water level in the lake rose about 8 inches Tuesday night, but by Friday afternoon it had dropped by more than two feet.

For its part, The Northern Indiana Public Service Company has been using the Norway and Oakdale dams it operates to raise and lower the water level to help loosen the ice this week.

According to NIPSCO spokesperson Jim Fitzer, although the dams are not designed for flood control, they are licensed to fluctuate several inches.

"In emergency situations, we have a variance of plus or minus six inches, but normally, it's plus or minus three inches," he said.

Fitzer said the Norway Dam should have no problems dealing with either the ice or the water behind it as the jam breaks.

By Thursday afternoon, water behind the jam had receded enough that most of the temporary barriers were no longer necessary. Another day of mostly sunny skies on Friday helped break up more ice, giving the river a chance to drop even further.

Cochran said that his office had been in communication with NIPSCO and that the company had been planning on running both the Norway and Oakdale dams at a flow of 6,000 cubic feet per second overnight on Thursday in order to lower water levels further in anticipation of more precipitation early next week.



In comparison, 13,000 cubic feet per second is considered flood stage. Prior to this year's floods the record water flow for the dams came in 1959, when the Oakdale dam registered a flow of over 22,000 cubic feet per second. That rate in January's flood measured over 30,000 cubic feet per second and peak flow less than a month registered at nearly 26,000 cubic feet per second.

It's a pattern that could happen again.

According to the National Weather Service forecast, rain is likely on Sunday, with temperatures in the 40s during the day. Temperatures are expected to drop on Monday and snow is likely.

"Depending on where this front goes, if it shifts north, then we'll get more rain," said Cochran. "If it shifts in the other direction, we'll get more snow than rain."

The major disaster declaration by President Bush for the area along the Tippecanoe River remains open, and anyone with damage from flooding is urged to call the Federal Emergency Management Agency at 1-800-621-FEMA in order to be eligible for flood relief.

[\*Return to Monticello\*](#)



## **Flood watch issued for Blackford, Jay**

THE STAR PRESS

HARTFORD CITY — A flood watch has been issued for Blackford, Grant and Jay counties until 10 p.m. today, according to the National Weather Service.

Moderate to heavy rainfall is possible into this evening, with an 80-percent chance of rain today and possible thunderstorms in the area, according to the NWS forecast.

This could lead to flooding along creeks and low-lying areas, and significant river and lake flooding that could extend into next week.

A flood watch means there is a potential for flooding based on current forecasts.

**Originally published February 17, 2008**

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## **SJC student-athletes come to the rescue for flood victims**

Posted: Monday, February 18, 2008 9:40 AM CST

Rensselaer - St. Joseph's College recognizes an integral part of a complete liberal arts college education is community outreach. The college sponsors a number of clubs and activities that involve the Rensselaer community, but it is especially important for SJC to come together and support the community in times of crisis.

The January and

February floods in Jasper County left many citizens without basic necessities, and SJC students stepped in to help.

In an effort to assist community members in this time of need, the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) organized a week-long clothing drive around the campus to assist Jasper County flood victims.

Donation boxes were placed in various locations to encourage students

and employees to give their gently-used clothes to the less fortunate.

"The clothing drive was very successful," said Jill Shopieray, women's

volleyball coach and SAAC advisor. "We collected over 2,000 clothing items, all of which were taken to a shelter outside of Remington. Many people benefited from these generous donations."

SAAC secretary Missy Kiefer, a senior business administration major from Crown Point, assisted Shopieray in counting and sorting the clothes and transporting them to the shelter. "The clothing drive was a good way for SAAC to help the community in a time of need," she said.

"It was nice to be able to relate to the people we assisted, because we were all affected by the flooding." SAAC members are no strangers to doing good works for the community.

"The purpose of SAAC is to provide a way for student-athletes to become involved in campus and community activities," Shopieray said. In the past, the club has held canned food drives for the local food pantry in addition to the annual event, Kids' Night Out, where children from the

community come to the campus and play games with the student-athletes.

“Being involved with SAAC allows us as student-athletes to give back to the community that supports us so much throughout the year,” said Kiefer, who is also the captain of the women’s tennis team.

For more information about SAAC, contact Shopieray at [jills@saintjoe.edu](mailto:jills@saintjoe.edu).

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## Flooded Hoosiers Looking for Help

Kathy Ferree says, "A lot of water damage, things floating away, personal belongings, it's pretty devastating."

Ferree describes the recent flooding of her home as a nightmare. She lives along the Tippecanoe River, the hardest hit area in Winamac.

A month ago, FEMA knocked on her door telling her to evacuate before the waters rose too high. So she packed a bag, and held onto hope.

Ferree says, "Try to stay strong, said a little prayer before I left the house, hope the water doesn't get in."

Now Kathy is asking FEMA to help her pick up the pieces once again.

FEMA Spokesman Richard Gifford says, "Everybody's suffering, it's a major cleanup effort, so we encourage anybody who sustained damage to come out to the Disaster Recovery Center or call the 800 number or go online at FEMA.gov."

Kathy is just one of many residents who were able to sit down with FEMA officials at the recovery center and file proper paperwork. But how do you know if you have sustained enough damage to get federal relief?

Gifford says, "It's important that you register, don't prejudge yourself, no matter what type of damage you have, you should register."

And until you can meet with the Disaster Recovery Center with questions about your flood situation.

Gifford says, "Keep as many receipts as you can, but go ahead and clean up, do whatever you need to do to get your house back in order, but make sure you call your insurance company first, and then call FEMA."

Since Kathy registered right away, she will be receiving help and only has one thing to say.

Ferree says, "Thank God for FEMA."

FEMA's Disaster Relief Center is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. until this Wednesday.

Its located at the Church of the Heartland on State Road 14 in Winamac.

And if you live near the Elkhart area, FEMA will be in Goshen February 22nd to the 26th.

If you need to file a claim, call to register at 1-800-621-FEMA or go online at [www.FEMA.gov](http://www.FEMA.gov)

*Updated: February 17, 2008, 6:21 pm*

[\*\*Return to South Bend\*\*](#)



# Another round of flooding expected in Elkhart County

*[by Ed Ernstes \(ernstes@wsbt.com\)](mailto:ernstes@wsbt.com)*

Elkhart County residents who live along the St. Joseph River are being told to prepare for more flooding in the next week. (WSBT photo)

**By Beth Boehne**

Story Created: Feb 15, 2008 at 4:27 PM EST

Story Updated: Feb 15, 2008 at 5:00 PM EST

ELKHART — For many homeowners, it's just about the last thing they want to hear: More heavy rain and snow are on the way. It's salt in the wounds of people still pumping out basements and filling sandbags.

For the third time this year, Bud Angelo has been pumping water from the St. Joseph River out of his basement.

"It started coming up again Tuesday night," he told WSBT News. "We noticed it and started pumping Tuesday and Wednesday. Finally yesterday about noon, the water started going down a little bit, we didn't have to pump anymore. It stopped coming up."

But there's a good chance those pumps won't get much of a break.

"And what they're telling me is that starting Sunday, we're either going to see a lot of snow, a lot of rain, or both," said Jennifer Tobey of Elkhart County Emergency Management. "And that's going to last a couple of days. Then we're going to have a couple of day warm-up, and then next weekend we're going to see the exact same thing."

She says people in Elkhart County who live along the St. Joseph River and have dealt with flooding and high water problems in the past should be prepared to deal with more of the same later this month.

"So they have actually put out a flood warning for the St. Joseph River and believe that we are going to see more ice jamming and more flooding," Tobey said.

"Yes it's very frustrating, the water level is up higher than it should be, certainly right now," Angelo said. "And if they are expecting more water, it seems like something should be done to get this down a little bit."

FEMA is planning to reopen a field office in Goshen next week to help victims register for assistance.

FEMA is also helping victims in other counties. People along the Tippecanoe River in Pulaski County have been hit hard.

Starting Sunday, they will be setting up a Mobile Disaster Recovery Center at the Church of the Heartland in Winamac on Highway 14. The center will be open Feb. 17 - Feb.20, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

[\*Return to South Bend\*](#)



# Will DOC inmates put cold-case cards on the table?

**By PABLO ROS, Tribune Staff Writer**

Officials at the Indiana Department of Correction are using playing cards in their efforts to solve cold case crimes.  
(Tribune illustration/TAMMY LOWER)

**By Tiffany Griffin**

Story Created: Feb 18, 2008 at 7:39 AM EST

Story Updated: Feb 18, 2008 at 7:39 AM EST

The ace of spades is Ruth Shelton, an 18-year-old who was abducted by robbers from the restaurant where she worked in Johnson County, Ind., and whose lifeless body later was found in a wooded field.

Shelton's slaying, which was Nov. 18, 1978, is one of 52 homicides or missing-person reports featured on a deck of playing cards that the Indiana Department of Correction plans to distribute to its inmate population in hopes of solving cold case crimes.

"The idea here is to improve public safety," said Randy Koester, a spokesman for the DOC.

Koester said this is the first time that the DOC has done "anything like this" and that its goals are to seek closure for the victims' families and apprehend those responsible for the crimes.

The cards feature 45 unsolved killings labeled as "murder," four missing person reports and one "body found" from a total of 26 Indiana counties. The cold cases featured in the deck of cards span more than 30 years, from the slaying of John Terhorst in Boone County in 1971 to the killing of Tracy Sissom in Brown County in 2004.

Koester said the DOC was seeking information from the state police and the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, when the idea came about. He compared it with a deck of cards that the federal government issued in its search for possible terrorists.

Koester said the 52 cold cases featured are not necessarily the oldest or most difficult to solve. But they do come from across the state and were the ones provided to the DOC by the state police and the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center.

Although none are from St. Joseph or Elkhart counties, four cold cases from nearby LaPorte County are featured in the deck:

- 16-year-old Rayna Rison's body was found in a pond after her disappearance in 1993.
- The body of Linda Weldy, 10, was found along abandoned railroad tracks after she failed to come home from school in 1987.
- Jonathan Jones, 18, was shot and killed in Michigan City in 1995.
- The body of Juanita Boyd, 32, was found in the trunk of her vehicle in 1981.



Koester said the DOC is asking media outlets in the state for help in collecting photographs of the victims. Each card would display a victim's photo with a brief description of the crime. The crimes were randomly paired with the cards in the deck.

The cards will go on sale within a month or two, Koester said this week. The printing plates with the design for them are ready.

Koester said inmates at the DOC will print the cards using prison equipment. They will be among other items that inmates make, including license plates and furniture.

The cards will be sold not-for-profit to the DOC's inmate population of 26,000 offenders for \$1.10. Eventually, Koester said, the cold case cards would become the only playing cards available to the inmates to buy through the DOC. He said the cards will not be marketed to the general public.

Koester said the DOC hopes that through the use of the cards, inmates would be more likely to offer clues that could help solve a cold case. He said offenders might gain useful information through their interaction with other offenders at the DOC.

He said that although some might seek to cooperate in the hopes of receiving a sentence modification or other reward, others might do so earnestly.

"Offenders are people like you and me, and if they know they can help, they have the same desire to do something that could resolve a crime," Koester said.

Asked whether the DOC had consulted with victims' families in undertaking its initiative, Koester said the DOC has spoken primarily with prosecutors and sheriffs.

Koester also said that in the future, other decks of cards might be created to include other unsolved crimes.

[\*Return to South Bend\*](#)